TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

1701 North Congress Ave., Suite 6-700
Austin, Texas 78701

November 12, 2026

Via e-mail to Jmorale@hfsctx.gov

Houston Forensic Science Center
Attn: Jackeline Morale, Quality Director
500 Jefferson Street, 13th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

RE: Application for Renewal of Texas Forensic Science Commission Accreditation under Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 651

Dear Ms. Morale:

With some exceptions, the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 38.35, requires Texas Forensic Science Commission ("Commission") accreditation as a predicate to the admission of the forensic analysis of physical evidence and expert testimony relating to the evidence in a criminal case.

As the designee of the Commission's Presiding Officer, I have considered your application for renewal of accreditation based on your national accreditation by the ANSI National Accreditation Board ("ANAB") and grant Commission accreditation to the Houston Forensic Science Center for the laboratory locations and corresponding forensic disciplines, components/parameters, items, and key equipment/technology as designated by ANAB in its Scope of Accreditation issued 10/29/2026 attached with this letter.[1] The current term of ANAB accreditation is from **10/29/2026 to 12/31/2030**. The current term of Commission accreditation is from **10/29/2026 to 12/31/2030.**

Commission accreditation is contingent upon compliance with Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, Section 651.8(d) Reports to the Commission, including: 1) providing the Commission with a copy of each annual accreditation review report or assessment document; 2) providing copies of all correspondence and each report or communication between the laboratory and the recognized accrediting body; and 3) notifying the Commission of the discontinuation or addition of a specific forensic discipline or category of analysis.

[1] Please be aware that certain forensic disciplines and categories of testing listed on a crime laboratory's Scope of Accreditation may be exempt from Texas accreditation requirements either by statute or administrative rule. TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. art. 38.35(d)(1). Examples of items that may appear on an accreditation scope but are exempt by Texas law or administrative rule include: serial number restoration, latent print examination, collection activities, digital evidence, crime scene reconstruction, and the portion of an autopsy conducted by a medical examiner or other forensic pathologist who is a licensed physician. A complete and current list of forensic disciplines and categories of forensic examinations or tests subject to and exempt from Commission accreditation rules may be found here.

The term of Commission accreditation is active until such time that the accreditation from ANAB is no longer current. Commission accreditation is automatically rescinded at the same date and time as ANAB withdraws your laboratory accreditation.

Sincerely,

Leigh Tomlin

Leigh M. Tomlin
Accreditation Program Manager